United Nations A/59/187

General Assembly

Distr.: General
30 July 2004

Original: English

Fifty-ninth session
Item 98 of the provisional agenda*
Crime prevention and criminal justice

Strengthening international cooperation and technical assistance in preventing and combating terrorism

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 58/136 of 22 December 2003, entitled "Strengthening international cooperation and technical assistance in promoting the implementation of the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism within the framework of the activities of the Centre for International Crime Prevention". It reviews the status of technical assistance activities of the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the Division for Treaty Affairs of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and includes an update on efforts made to initiate joint activities with other relevant role players, as well as on information-sharing and awareness-raising. The report also provides a brief overview of the responses received from Member States and international organizations on the nature of links between terrorism and other forms of crime and a summary of the senior-level discussion held during the thirteenth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. It concludes with a set of recommendations on the way ahead.

* A/59/150.

V.04-56658 (E) 170804 180804

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I. Introduction

1. Enormous loss of life, destruction and damage were caused in 2003 by heinous acts of terrorism, including the deliberate attack on the headquarters of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq in Baghdad. Those events have raised questions about the nature of the challenges facing the international community and have accentuated the need for the international community to join forces to address those problems. They have also highlighted the need to strengthen international cooperation among States and international and regional organizations to prevent, combat and eliminate international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever it is committed and whoever the perpetrators, since no nation on its own is in a position to fight and eliminate the global evil of terrorism.

2. In its resolution 1373 (2001) of 28 September 2001, the Security Council noted the close connection between international terrorism and transnational organized crime, trafficking in illicit drugs, money-laundering, illegal arms trafficking and illegal movement of nuclear, chemical, biological and other potentially deadly materials. Most of the technical assistance work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is focused on those areas and thus puts the Office in an exceptional position to explore new sets of paradigms in the delivery of technical assistance. Knowledge of the nature of the links is relevant for the Office not only to increase synergy but also to deliver technical assistance more effectively.

3. The increasing volume of technical assistance activities undertaken by the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the Division for Treaty Affairs of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has been notable. During the period under review the Global Programme against Terrorism, launched in October 2002, was fully implemented. The number of countries that have received assistance in reviewing and revising their national legislation against terrorism is testimony to the commitment of the Office to specific action against the scourge. It is anticipated that the implementation of its activities will be further accelerated during the period 2004-2005.

II. Providing technical assistance to strengthen the legal regime against terrorism

4. Following the attacks of 11 September 2001 in the United States of America, additional mandates were given to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for terrorism prevention activities by the General Assembly in its resolutions 56/88 of 12 December 2001, 56/123 of 19 December 2001, 56/261 of 31 January 2002, 57/170 and 57/173 of 18 December 2002, 57/292 of 20 December 2002, 58/81 of 9 December 2003 and 58/136 and 58/140 of 22 December 2003 and the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2002/19 of 24 July 2002. In its resolution 11/1, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice encouraged Member States to participate in the Symposium on Combating International Terrorism: the Contribution of the United Nations, which was subsequently held in Vienna on 3 and 4 June 2002. Speakers at that Symposium advised on possible areas in which the Office could assist in developing a global anti-terrorism capacity. The Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee established pursuant to Security Council

resolution 1373 (2001) stressed the importance of providing guidance to States with less experience in legislating and implementing anti-terrorism measures and noted the important role that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime could play in that regard.[1] As a result, as mandated by the Symposium and with the endorsement of the Commission, the Office launched its Global Programme against Terrorism in October 2002 to provide assistance to requesting States in strengthening the legal regime against terrorism.

A. Nature of assistance

5. The overall aim of the technical cooperation programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is to respond promptly and efficiently to requests for counter-terrorism assistance in accordance with the priorities set by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Counter-Terrorism Committee by: (a) reviewing domestic legislation and providing advice on drafting laws; (b) providing in-depth assistance on the ratification and implementation of new legislation against terrorism through a mentorship programme; and (c) facilitating and providing training for staff of national criminal justice systems on the utilization of new universal legal instruments against terrorism.

6. International cooperation is an essential element of any programme against terrorism. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, with its substantive expertise on international cooperation, is well placed to assist States in developing treaty relations at the bilateral, subregional and regional levels, in particular on the basis of the revised manuals on the model treaties on extradition and mutual legal assistance and the model law on extradition and taking into account the relevant provisions contained in the universal anti-terrorism instruments, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (General Assembly resolution 55/25, annex I), the United Nations Convention against Corruption (Assembly resolution 58/4, annex) and the drug conventions.

7. Indicators for success of the Office's work are the quality and timeliness of assistance rendered, ultimately resulting in an increased number of parties to the 12 universal anti-terrorism instruments. In its resolution 58/136, the General Assembly recommended that the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in coordination with other United Nations entities, in particular the Counter-Terrorism Committee, keep under regular review the progress made by Member States in becoming parties to and implementing the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism and the needs of Member States requesting assistance. As at 22 July 2004, 11 States had ratified universal instruments subsequent to having received direct legislative drafting assistance from the Office.[2]

B. Project execution

8. The main focus of the activities under the technical assistance projects on strengthening the legal regime against terrorism has been on the provision of direct legal advisory services to requesting States on incorporation of the relevant provisions contained in the 12 universal anti-terrorism conventions and protocols into national legislation. Those activities have been carried out in close consultation

with the Counter-Terrorism Committee and were, inter alia, guided by requests received from and priorities set by the Committee.

9. In particular, during the past 1½ years, the Office familiarized more than 500 lawmakers and law enforcement and other criminal justice officials from over 80 countries with the provisions of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), as well as the requirements for ratifying and implementing the universal anti-terrorism instruments and international cooperation arrangements.

10. Specific national action plans were developed jointly with Governments and legislative drafting committees were established to study the provisions of the instruments and to make recommendations to ministers regarding ratification as well as implementation of legislation. Such direct country-specific assistance had been delivered to 43 countries as at 23 July 2004.[3]

11. Regional and subregional workshops have been held that have allowed countries from the same region to compare progress, learn from each other and harmonize legislative efforts: in Lithuania for the Baltic States, Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine; in Costa Rica, jointly with the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) of the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders for States members of OAS[4] that had ratified the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism; in Mali for West and Central African States;[5] in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, jointly with the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) for the Central Asian States, as well as Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; in the Sudan for States members of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development; and in Turkey for the Central Asian States and States of the southern Caucasus. In addition, a study tour was organized for Portuguese-speaking countries and territories[6] on the ratification and implementation of the United Nations conventions and protocols relating to the fight against organized crime and to the universal anti-terrorism instruments.

12. The workshops produced final documents focusing on the follow-up technical assistance needs of participating States with regard to the ratification and implementation of the universal anti-terrorism instruments. Final declarations, inter alia, encouraged the development of a culture of intolerance towards terrorism in all its forms, called upon the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to develop joint technical assistance programmes on counter-terrorism and encouraged the use of the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) to ensure an adequate exchange of information in the area of counter-terrorism.

13. In some cases, staff of the Office provided States with the elements needed to complete reports to the Counter-Terrorism Committee in response to Security Council resolution 1373 (2001). Terrorism prevention experts were also strategically placed in the field, in a number of regions, to support and follow up assistance activities.

14. In line with the priorities of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime will, while continuing its work on promoting the universal anti-terrorism instruments, orient its activities towards in-depth,

qualitative follow-up aid to requesting countries for the implementation of the instruments. The scope of assistance provided will be broadened. A global network of experts will be established to follow up on progress made by States. The creation of advisory panels for geographical regions and legal systems to review proposed legislative solutions and provide specific input appropriate to the particular country's historical and legal traditions and jurisprudence is also envisaged. The focus will be on implementation assistance, that is, on strengthening institutional structures and mechanisms to enable States to implement the relevant international instruments, providing online advice on extradition and mutual legal assistance requests and giving advice on international cooperation mechanisms through mentorship programmes, thus working towards the full implementation of the universal instruments.

C. Technical assistance tools

15. A legislative guide to the universal anti-terrorism instruments and accompanying checklists have been designed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to encourage and help States to ratify and implement the universal instruments. The guide enhances the ability of the Office to respond to requests for legal technical assistance and is available in the six official languages of the United Nations as an official publication[7] and on the web site of the Office (http://www.unodc.org/unodc/terrorism_documents.html). The guide contains drafting resources in the form of laws currently in force, as well as illustrative model laws. Checklists containing the convention requirements accompany the legislative guide.

16. Examples of provisions from national legislation are contained on the web site together with material from the Commonwealth Secretariat. In addition, the Office has compiled relevant legislation from over 130 countries. This legal database is used by the Office as an in-house tool to support the delivery of technical assistance and is updated periodically.

17. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Sciences and the Monitoring Centre on Organized Crime organized an expert group meeting on the preparation of model legislation on extradition in conjunction with a training workshop on extradition in terrorism cases in Siracusa, Italy, from 2 to 6 December 2003. The two meetings served to upgrade skills in the field of extradition.

D. Guidelines for technical assistance

18. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 58/136, a meeting of experts was organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in cooperation with the Institute for Security Studies in Cape Town, South Africa, on 24 and 25 February 2004 to consider a compilation of international legal instruments, declarations and models pertaining to terrorism, related forms of crime and international cooperation, assembled with the assistance of the International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy. The meeting proposed 10 guidelines for the provision of technical assistance by the Office, which were submitted to the Commission on

Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for input from Member States. It also suggested that the Secretariat should develop an implementation guide to update the legislative guide on the universal anti-terrorism conventions and protocols, incorporating the experience gained in the projects on strengthening the legal regime against terrorism and relating the contents of the compendium of the needs of States.

E. Voluntary contributions

19. The table below shows the contributions that have been made to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund for technical assistance projects of the Terrorism Prevention Branch:

Donor	*Total value (United States dollars)*
Austria	1 025 674
United Kingdom[a]	478 000
Italy	469 366
Italy[a]	306 373
France	247 578
United States of America	230 000
Germany	162 690
Spain	156 576
Germany[a]	50 000
Canada	47 071
Turkey	25 000
Netherlands	4 720
Total	**3 203 048**

[a] Indicates pledged amounts.

III. Links between terrorism and other forms of crime: synergy for technical assistance delivery

A. Nature of links

20. In its resolution 58/136, the General Assembly invited Member States to provide the Secretary-General with information on the nature of links between terrorism and other forms of crime in order to increase synergy in the delivery of technical assistance. By a note verbale dated 30 September 2003 and a follow-up note dated 29 December 2003, the Secretariat requested information on the nature of those links. As at 29 July 2004, the following 56 countries and territories had responded: Algeria, Australia, Azerbaijan, Barbados, Bahrain, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Croatia, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Myanmar, Namibia, New Zealand, Oman, Panama, Poland, Qatar, Republic

of Korea, Romania, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom and the crown dependencies of Guernsey and the Isle of Man, United States of America, Uzbekistan and Yemen.

21. Replies were also received from the International Bar Association, the League of Arab States and the Offshore Group of Banking Supervisors.

22. Most of the States responding provided the Secretariat with the text of the relevant provisions in their domestic legislation dealing with terrorist crimes, as well as the provisions indicating the punishment envisaged. Some States reported that they were in the process of enacting specific counter-terrorism legislation, while others had recently done so or had amended their penal codes. Most States were extending the list of behaviours related to terrorism that were to be criminalized. Governments had made an effort to criminalize most of the organizational activities of terrorist groups, such as the recruitment of members, fund-raising, concealment of sources of funding, various forms of incitation to violence and the planning and execution of terrorist acts. Most States treated terrorist acts as serious crimes in their legislation and also criminalized preparatory acts committed by terrorist organizations.

23. Many countries reported on their obligations as parties to international and regional conventions, as well as their existing bilateral extradition and mutual legal assistance agreements. In that context, several countries made specific reference to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (General Assembly resolution 55/25, annex I).

24. In those cases where there were perceived links between terrorism and other forms of crime, it was reported that the links were mostly of an operational, logistical or financial nature, denoting the presence of alliances of convenience. Many countries indicated that often the aim of terrorist groups in committing other crimes was to obtain financial or other means to commit terrorist acts. In the absence of other means of support, terrorist groups, according to some responses received, had become involved in various forms of lucrative crime in order to support themselves and finance their main activities. In addition, in the absence of normal access to some of the means required to carry out terrorist activities, terrorist groups had become involved in various crimes in order to procure such means.

25. Many States indicated that terrorist groups were frequently involved in trafficking in illicit drugs, smuggling of arms, smuggling of illegal migrants and other forms of exploitation of illegal markets, inter alia, to support terrorist activities. A number of countries indicated that there were links between terrorist activities and various criminal activities relating to corruption, money-laundering and the falsification of travel and identity or other official documents. Some countries observed links between terrorism and trafficking in potentially deadly materials.

26. Other States found it difficult to comment on the existence of links between terrorism and other forms of crime, since they had not faced terrorist activities within their territories in recent years.

27. Some States described programmes in the areas of law enforcement and judicial training, as well as bilateral arrangements. In the area of law enforcement

cooperation, several countries noted the role of Interpol and of regional police cooperation arrangements. Several also stressed the importance of cooperation and exchange of information among financial intelligence units.

28. Several countries reported on their actions in response to Security Council resolutions 1267 (1999) of 15 October 1999 and 1333 (2000) of 19 December 2000 concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban (and associated individuals and entities). Several also referred to the information already contained in their respective reports submitted to the Counter-Terrorism Committee pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 1373 (2001) (see http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/committees/1373).

B. Meeting of experts

29. A meeting of experts was organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in cooperation with the Institute for Security Studies in Cape Town, South Africa, on 26 and 27 February 2004, on increasing synergy in the delivery of technical assistance to address the involvement of terrorists in other forms of crime. Participants acknowledged the difficulty in documenting and describing linkages between criminal groups and terrorist groups or between terrorist and other criminal activities. They found reliable data on the nature of such links to be hard to obtain and the task to be further complicated in many cases by the absence of criminalization, issues of definition and lack of complete information and record-keeping.

30. The meeting proposed that countries strengthen their actions against terrorism by focusing their attention on other forms of criminal activity that preceded and accompanied terrorist crimes. It pointed out that full use should be made of other appropriate international instruments to pursue crimes related to terrorism. In particular, it encouraged Member States to utilize the mutual legal assistance and extradition provisions of those instruments.

31. The meeting also highlighted the need for Member States' responses to such criminal activities and for technical assistance activities to be comprehensive and integrated. There was consensus that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in cooperation with the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network of institutes, should, in accordance with the implementation guidelines on technical assistance proposed by the meeting, provide technical assistance to enhance the capacity of requesting States to prevent and combat both terrorist acts and other forms of serious crime simultaneously. Specifically, technical assistance missions, tools and training efforts should be integrated, where feasible, so that they addressed jurisdictional, procedural and international cooperation issues common to the fight against terrorism, drug trafficking, transnational organized crime, money-laundering, corruption and other forms of serious crime. Such an integrated approach, in particular when closely coordinated with bilateral assistance and with other efforts of international, regional and subregional organizations under the leadership of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, would hold the greatest promise of achieving the increased synergy envisioned by the General Assembly in its resolution 58/136.

IV. Joint activities

32. Apart from creating synergy among relevant units within the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, such as the Anti-Money-Laundering Unit of the Rule of Law Section of the Human Security Branch of the Division for Operations, the launching of the Global Programme against Terrorism has made the Terrorism Prevention Branch a key partner and executive agent for technical assistance of the Counter-Terrorism Committee. The relationship between the Branch and the Committee is complementary and synergistic. While the Committee analyses reports received from Member States and facilitates the provision of technical assistance to requesting States, the Branch, with its substantive expertise, delivers that assistance. Regular working contacts with the Committee are maintained, in particular through reports to its Technical Assistance Team and liaison in identifying countries with a priority need for legal assistance. In that regard, the Committee directs requests for assistance from countries to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

33. Partnerships and collaborative ties have been established not only with the Counter-Terrorism Committee, but also with the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat and regional bodies such as OSCE.

34. As a follow-up to the special meeting organized by the Counter-Terrorism Committee on 6 March 2003, OSCE, in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, hosted a meeting between international, regional and subregional organizations in Vienna on 11 and 12 March 2004. That initiative was joined by the Counter-Terrorism Committee, acting through its Chairman. The overall theme of the meeting was "Strengthening practical cooperation between regional and international organizations". The meeting resulted in the Vienna Declaration (S/2004/276), in which the 40 participating organizations committed themselves to undertake joint activities to strengthen cooperation. The proceedings of the meeting will be presented in a joint OSCE/United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime publication.

35. With regard to partnerships with national ministries, a precedent has been set with the cooperative arrangements of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with the Office of Prosecutorial Development, Assistance and Training of the United States Department of Justice and with the International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program. A meeting was held in Vienna from 10 to 13 February 2004 on international legal frameworks for cooperation in combating terrorism, organized crime and corruption. The meeting constituted an opportunity to highlight successful strategies and opportunities for cooperation in improving transnational judicial assistance, including legislative drafting, development of skills and institution-building.

36. Joint assistance activities for specific regions are being implemented with OAS for countries in Central and South America, with OSCE for Central Asian States, with the Council of Europe for Eastern European countries and with the African Union for members of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development. Representatives of the International Monetary Fund have joined staff of the Terrorism Prevention Branch on missions to provide legal advisory services related to the financing of terrorism.

V. Information-sharing and awareness-raising

37. In order to ensure programme accountability, the Terrorism Prevention Branch provided, on a periodic basis, detailed briefings to Member States on progress made in programme delivery. In addition to those briefings, information on programme implementation was provided regularly to permanent missions. The Branch furnished the Counter-Terrorism Committee and donor and recipient countries on a monthly basis with a matrix of its ongoing and planned technical assistance activities per country, region and subregion. Presentations on programme activities were made in a variety of international forums, including the Counter-Terrorism Committee, the Counter Terrorism Action Group of the Group of Eight and the Council of the European Union Working Party on Terrorism.

38. The Terrorism Prevention Branch expanded its efforts to disseminate information through its web site, which contains technical assistance tools and information on the technical assistance programme. New brochures reflecting the work of the Branch have been issued, while one issue of the journal *Forum on Crime and Society* was devoted to terrorism.

VI. Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

39. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice held a senior-level discussion on progress made with regard to the criminal justice aspects of terrorism and international cooperation and to the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism. As requested by the General Assembly, the Counter-Terrorism Committee and relevant intergovernmental organizations were invited to participate in the discussion. The Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council the approval of a draft resolution for adoption by the General Assembly entitled "Strengthening international cooperation and technical assistance in promoting the implementation of the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism within the framework of the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime".

40. The Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime noted the deliberate attacks on international organizations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross. He stressed the need for enhanced international cooperation and highlighted examples of the progress being made with regard to international, regional and national measures to counter terrorism.

41. The observer for the Counter-Terrorism Committee outlined the principal courses of action available to the United Nations in its fight against terrorism and the importance of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001). Having stressed that the existing 12 universal instruments against terrorism represented the legal basis for international cooperation, he highlighted the work of the Committee and the complementary work carried out by other international and regional entities, such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, noting the exemplary nature of the cooperation between the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Office.

42. During the discussion it was recognized that terrorism was one of the most serious threats to freedom, democracy and human rights and a major source of destabilization for States and societies. Speakers referred to recent terrorist attacks,

expressing their deep sympathy for the tragic loss of life caused. Terrorism should be condemned in all its forms and manifestations, irrespective of where the terrorist acts were committed or who committed them. It was stressed that there was no excuse for acts of terrorism and that there should be no distinction between "good" and "bad" terrorism. Furthermore, a number of speakers stressed that terrorism was not linked to any specific religion. There was recognition that terrorism was a transnational phenomenon and that it could only be defeated with the active participation of all States and regional organizations.

43. While the importance of addressing the root causes and breeding grounds of terrorism was underlined, it was also noted that there were other means to prevent terrorism such as awareness-raising, dialogue and the teaching of coexistence, victim compensation, the improvement of social conditions and the criminalization of discrimination based on sex, religion or religious affiliation.

44. The need to make progress in the work on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism was stressed as a means to enhance the international legal framework against terrorism, in particular with a view to developing a clear definition of terrorism. The importance of having a global legal framework, with the corresponding provisions to detect, prevent, prosecute and convict terrorists, with full respect for human rights and the rule of law, was also stressed.

45. Some speakers noted with concern the links between terrorism and other forms of criminal behaviour, which had already been recognized by the Security Council in its resolution 1373 (2001). In that context, the importance of international cooperation in the fight against terrorism and other forms of crime was emphasized.

46. Many speakers noted the record of their Governments in ratifying existing universal and regional instruments related to the prevention and suppression of international terrorism and outlined specific domestic measures in the process of adjusting national legislation to international standards in order to implement the ratified instruments and comply with the requirements of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001).

47. Several speakers expressed their satisfaction with the work carried out by the Terrorism Prevention Branch and noted the complementary, non-duplicative work in support of the overall role of the Counter-Terrorism Committee. In that regard, they welcomed the revitalization of the Committee, as presented in Security Council resolution 1535 (2004) of 26 March 2004.

48. In referring to the technical assistance activities already carried out by the Terrorism Prevention Branch in their respective States, many speakers expressed their appreciation for the legislative advisory services provided. Several speakers made reference to specific national, subregional and regional workshops for the ratification and implementation of the universal anti-terrorism instruments. An especially important aspect of the mandate of the Branch was identified in its contribution to the universalization of the United Nations instruments against terrorism to create a global, encompassing legal framework.

49. While some speakers expressed the view that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime should maintain its focus on legal reform, other speakers advocated a greater role for the United Nations and for the Office in fighting terrorism. Most speakers agreed that it was crucial, once the instruments had been

ratified, for the Office to provide assistance in building capacity to implement the global instruments effectively at the national level.

50. Some speakers noted the need for future assistance and advice on the implementation of the universal instruments, including legislative assistance, as well as for specific training, establishment of national bodies and provision of equipment. In that respect, the representative of Angola (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States) and the representative of Colombia (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States) called upon the international community and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to provide continued, reinforced assistance. Many speakers stressed the need for the Office to have at its disposal adequate financial resources to carry out its tasks effectively.

VII. Conclusions and recommendations: the way ahead

51. Building on the pilot work carried out in 2003 and on the testing of the new technical assistance tools developed so far, the focus of the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime will continue to be on providing assistance to Member States, upon request, on the ratification and implementation of the universal anti-terrorism instruments and thus to contribute to the implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001).

52. The capacity of the Office to deliver technical assistance has been enhanced in the operational area through its representation at the country and subregional levels as a result of placing experts in the field, the conversion of offices of the United Nations Drug Control Programme to field offices of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as well as creating partnerships. Additional efforts will be made to utilize the power of partnerships to the full.

53. In its resolution 58/136, the General Assembly expressed its appreciation to donor countries for voluntary contributions that had supported the launching of the Global Programme against Terrorism, and invited all States to make adequate voluntary contributions to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund. The further growth of operational activities, ongoing requests for assistance and the continued support given to the ratification and implementation of the universal anti-terrorism instruments have stretched the limited resources available. Additional voluntary contributions and cost-sharing arrangements with assisted countries are essential.

54. In accordance with the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 and the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005, the main priorities for the technical assistance activities of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme are fostering international cooperation and strengthening national capacity in, inter alia, promoting anti-terrorism policies and measures. Thus, the main elements of future work will be the facilitation and/or provision of capacity-building assistance to strengthen international cooperation and to provide legal advisory services for the implementation of the instruments. Future activities of the Office envisaged also include support

for the creation of central authorities to deal with requests for international cooperation and special units for the implementation of the universal instruments against terrorism, in particular the strengthening of international cooperation arrangements.

55. International cooperation is of great importance in the fight against terrorism. The international community has developed the necessary legal instruments for international cooperation. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime must respond to the challenge, broadening the assistance provided to prosecutors, judges and other law enforcement practitioners in Member States to put those instruments to good use. The challenge is to provide a system of effective and fair criminal justice across the globe, thus increasing safety and security.

Notes

[1] See United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Combating International Terrorism: the Contribution of the United Nations*, 2003.

[2] Azerbaijan, Benin, Burkina Faso, Comoros, Croatia, Georgia, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Madagascar, Mauritius and Mozambique.

[3] Afghanistan, Angola, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Benin, Brazil, Burundi, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Croatia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Georgia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Hungary, Jamaica, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius, Mongolia, Mozambique, Niger, Paraguay, Peru, Republic of the Congo, Romania, Sao Tome and Principe, Slovakia, Sudan, Suriname, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Timor-Leste, United Arab Emirates and Viet Nam.

[4] Costa Rica, El Salvador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and Peru.

[5] Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Niger, Nigeria, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

[6] Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Macao Special Administrative Region of China, Mozambique, Portugal, Sao Tome and Principe and Timor-Leste.

[7] United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Legislative Guide to the Universal Anti-Terrorism Conventions and Protocols* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.04.V.7).